

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

## **TODD P. GRAVES**

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs ● (816) 426-4220 ● 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 ● Kansas City, MO 64106 www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow

NOVEMBER 1, 2004 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## 10 KC RESIDENTS INDICTED FOR METH CONSPIRACY

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that 11 Kansas City, Mo., residents were indicted by a federal grand jury today for participating in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine.

Michael Gonzales, 25, Jeffrey L. Love, 39, Deborah S. Decavele, 42, Donald Hollingsworth, 40, Joseph D. Kulpa, 22, Christopher Kelly, 30, Ronald J. Bailey, 27, Christina M. Callen, 21, Jessica Kasinac, 25, Stephen J. Berger, 23, all of Kansas City, were charged in a seven-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that all of the defendants have participated in a conspiracy to manufacture methamphetamine since Jan. 1, 2000. The indictment alleges that the amount of methamphetamine manufactured or intended to be manufactured by members of the conspiracy was at least 150 grams but less than 500 grams.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Bailey**, **Callen** and **Kelly** were in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on March 14, 2003.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Love**, **Decavele**, **Hollingsworth** and **Kulpa**, aiding and abetting each other, attempted to manufacture methamphetamine on Feb. 25, 2004. The indictment alleges that the defendants attempted to manufacture at least 50 grams but less than 150 grams of methamphetamine.

Count Four of the federal indictment alleges that **Love** carried a Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun on Feb. 25, 2004, while attempting to manufacture methamphetamine as alleged in Count Three. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal to be in possession of a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime.

Count Five of the federal indictment alleges that **Callen** and **Kasinic**, aiding and abetting each other, were in possession of pseudoephedrine, knowing that it would be used to manufacture methamphetamine, on July 26, 2004.

Count Six of the federal indictment alleges that **Gonzales**, **Berger**, **Callen** and **Kasinac**, aiding and abetting each other, attempted to manufacture methamphetamine on Aug. 13, 2004. The indictment alleges that the defendants attempted to manufacture at least five grams but less than 20 grams of methamphetamine.

Count Seven of the federal indictment alleges that **Love** and **Gonzales**, aiding and abetting each other, attempted to manufacture methamphetamine on Aug. 26, 2004. The indictment alleges that the defendants attempted to manufacture at least 50 grams but less than 150 grams of methamphetamine.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in the indictment are simply accusations, and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Catherine A. Connelly. It was investigated by the Kansas City Metro Meth Task Force, the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Blue Springs, Mo., Police Department, and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

\*\*\*\*

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow